

First Meeting of the National Focal Points for OIC Water Vision

3-5 June 2015

Istanbul, Republic of Turkey

REPORT

Introduction

1. The First Meeting of the National Focal Points for OIC Water Vision took place in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey on 3-5 June 2015. The meeting was hosted by the Turkish Water Institute (SUEN).
2. The meeting was attended by the National Focal Points from OIC Member States, OIC Institutions, and Observers. (List of participants is attached as in **Annex I**).
3. Dr. Aslihan Kerc, National Focal point for Turkey, speaking on behalf of the host country, welcomed the participants to the meeting and expressed Turkey's readiness to extend support for the effective implementation of the OIC Water Vision. She called upon the participants to identify priority areas of collaboration for realization of the goals and objectives of the Vision.
4. Dr. Razley M. Nordin, Consultant in the OIC General Secretariat, in his statement, urged the Focal Points to use this opportunity to build useful networks for knowledge sharing, technology transfer and sharing of good practices in the promotion of coordinated region-wide planning. He reiterated the commitment of the OIC General Secretariat to continue working for the promotion of cooperation and facilitating the Member States to achieve their development goals and objectives.
5. The Representative of ISESCO, Dr. Alaoui Mohamed, in his statement, highlighted the importance of water in all spheres of life; in building civilizations, food security, and socio-economic development and urged participants to set clear water targets and endeavor to achieve them.

Election of Bureau members and adoption of agenda

6. Following the inaugural statements, the Meeting proceeded to elect its Bureau by acclamation as follows:

Chairman: Republic of Turkey

Vice Chairmen: 1. The Gambia
2. Republic of Tunisia

Rapporteur: Republic of Suriname

7. Thereafter the Agenda and Work Programme for the meeting were adopted (attached as **Annex II & III**).

Status of the Implementation of Decisions of 2nd Islamic Conference of Ministers responsible for Water

8. Dr. Razley Nordin, made a presentation on the status of the implementation of decisions of the Second Islamic Conference of Ministers responsible for Water held in Istanbul on 2012. He highlighted the main objectives of the OIC Water Vision, areas of possible cooperation in the field of water and reported that 42 Member States had, so far, designated their focal points. He urged other Member States to expedite the nomination of their focal points for better coordination.

Reporting on the Implementation Plan of the OIC Water Vision

9. Member States reported their respective activities towards the implementation of the Vision. The majority of Member States indicated that they had national strategies and plans on water uses. They shared success stories and best practices in the domain of water resources management. Highlighting the importance of cooperation on water, they gave examples of ongoing bilateral and regional cooperation projects.
10. Several Member States expressed readiness to share their experiences in a range of water related issues such as sanitation and hygiene; wastewater management and water quality; water harvesting; flood management and disaster mitigation measures; and water saving techniques and technologies.
11. Member States singled out water financing; lack of capacity and inadequate infrastructure as some of the challenges facing them.
12. OIC Institutions namely COMSTECH, SESRIC, IDB and ISESCO, made presentations on their activities in the framework of the OIC Water Vision. SESRIC Representative took the participants through the questionnaire that was prepared to assess the capacities available in the Member states and called for its speedy completion to facilitate the preparation of the status report on Water among the OIC countries. The Meeting took note of the Strategy for Integrated Management of Water Resources in the Islamic World adopted by the Ministers Responsible for Environment in 2003 and the steps taken by ISESCO for its implementation. ISESCO reported that an updated version of the Strategy document is due for adoption in October 2015.

Monitoring and Evaluation of the Implementation Plan of OIC Water Vision

13. Dr. Razley presented proposals for the development of an implementation plan of OIC Water Vision. Participants formed two Groups to discuss focus areas where Member States can collaborate. On the basis of the recommendation of the 2nd ICMW, the Meeting deliberated and proposed a number of clusters. The Meeting agreed to have these clusters further scrutinized by a smaller Committee comprised of the Chairman and two vice Chairmen so as to come up with manageable number of clusters (as in **Annex IV**).
14. Several Member States volunteered as Lead Country Coordinators as well partners in different clusters as per attached table (as in **Annex V**). The final list would be uploaded on the Water Portal for Member States to make their inputs and to complete a table with possible of activities, time line, Key Performance Indicators and implementing partners to implement the proposed activities(as in **Annex VI**).

15. The Meeting agreed to set the end of June 2016 as the date when the Implementation Plan should be ready for approval by the Water Council in accordance with the agreed roadmap as in **Annex VII**.

Consideration of concept on the Establishment of OIC Water Council

16. Dr. Razley Nordin made a presentation on the concept to establish the OIC Water Council in accordance with the decision of the 2nd session of Islamic Conference of Ministers responsible for Water Affairs. The Meeting had an extensive discussion of the concept and several Member States expressed their views on the name, composition and the scope of work for the Water Council. They agreed that that the draft concept should be uploaded on the water web portal for Member States to make their inputs.
17. The OIC General Secretariat undertook to have the concept translated in the three OIC official languages in two weeks' time and submit to SESRIC and SUEN for uploading and necessary follow-up.
18. The Meeting agreed on the following timelines to finalize the concepts paper on Water Council:
 - Secretariat to post the draft Water Council Document in three languages by 15 June 2015
 - National Focal points to provide their comments by 16 July 2015
 - Secretariat to transmit the updated draft to all Member States by 30 July 2015
 - The Final Document to be ready by 30 August 2015
 - The Final Document to be posted on Web Portal by 1st October 2015

Consideration of concept for Creation of Water Fund

19. The concept on the creation of a Water Fund was presented by Dr. Razley Nordin. Participants gave their initial views on the concept. Given the previous experience with the creation of Funds under the OIC, some of the participants proposed to start with projects based on bilateral arrangements on technology transfer, knowledge and experience sharing between different Member States. In-kind assistance between Member States could also be considered to avoid the bureaucracy associated with the creation of a physical Fund.
20. The Turkish Water Institute (SUEN) offered to work closely with SESRIC to compile data of Water Experts from Member States and upload it on Water Web Portal to facilitate exchanges between Member States.
21. Several Member States and Institutions such as Turkey, Pakistan, Malaysia, Sudan, SESRIC and IDB offered to share their experiences with interested Member States provided they submit viable project proposals.
22. SUEN in collaboration with several Member States agreed to prepare a project proposal related to water borne diseases (malaria) for submission to IDB by 1st September 2015.
23. Interested Member States (recipient/provider) in the reverse linkage programme (knowledge and technology transfer) under the IDB may submit their requests through their country Governor Office indicating areas of possible intervention.

Preparation for Third Islamic Conference of Ministers responsible for Water

24. The Meeting reviewed the draft agenda and programme of work for the 3rd session of Islamic Conference of Ministers responsible for Water Affairs and made some amendments thereon. They agreed to submit the same to the Senior Officials' meeting which will be held in the morning of 2nd November 2015 for final review and submission to the Ministers for consideration and adoption. Draft Agenda and Draft Programme of Work of the 3rd session of ICMW are attached in **Annex VIII and Annex IX**.

Date and Venue of the 2nd Meeting of National Focal Points

25. The Meeting agreed to continue consultations to determine the date and venue of the next Meeting of NFPs.

Vote of Thanks

26. The Meeting expressed appreciation and gratitude to the Government of Turkey through the Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs and SUEN for the generous hospitality and excellent arrangements for the success of the Meeting.